Article on "Travancore a hundred years ago" in the Kerala Society Papers.

183. **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to an article, published in the Kerala Society Papers, II Series 8, pages 123 to 133 and Appendix I to XXII on "Travancore a Hundred Years ago" by Mr. I. Matthew of Mallapalli;

(*b*) whether their attention has been drawn in particular to the statement in that article by the writer to the effect that the writer's attempt is to publish facts about that period "from the papers that passed through my hands in the course of my official duties;"

(*c*) whether the writer is an officer of the Government entrusted with the custody of State papers and other papers in the Central Vernacular Records Office;

(*d*) whether Government permission is required to publish documents and parts of documents of the kind published in the article;

(*e*) whether the officer concerned has been granted such permission;

(*f*) if the answer to part (*e*) is in the affirmative, who was the authority that granted the permission; and

(*g*) whether any authority satisfied himself that the publication of the documents published in the article in question is unobjectionable and not opposed to public policy?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Government perused the article before despatch to the Society.

(*c*) Mr. I. Matthew was an Ag. Assistant Secretary to Government at the time he prepared it. He was for some time, in charge of the Central Vernacular Records.

(*d*) Yes, when they have to be taken from the Government records.

(*e*) Yes; this is referred to by the editors also in their foot note to page 123 of the article.

(*f*) and (*g*) The Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The answer to parts (*a*) and (*b*) is that the Government perused the article before despatch to the society. May I know why Government perused the article?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was to see whether the article was objectionable or unobjectionable.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether there is any officer entrusted with that duty?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no officer entrusted with that duty. It is done by some one among the officers of Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): When a writer wants to contribute an article to a magazine,—

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This article concerns Government.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): When a person wants to contribute to a magazine an article concerning the Government, is it the duty of the Government to peruse it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In this case it was done.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether there is any officer of Government, any officer paid by Government, to look into articles to magazines contributed by private individuals.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is at present a Publicity Officer.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I do not see the connection between my question and the answer. I wish to know whether there is any officer of Government whose duty is to peruse such articles.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no such *special* officer *specially* set apart for that work.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There may not be one *exclusively* doing that. I wish to know whether there is any officer within whose functions this also comes in. Is there any officer whose function among other duties is the perusal of articles contributed to magazines?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are several officers entrusted with several duties.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I understand that there are settled duties for officers. I wish to know whether there is any officer who has to do this work also?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no such special officer.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have said that there is no special officer of Government who should peruse articles.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want an answer with reference to the case covered by this present interpellation.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): An authority under the Government perused the article.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know who did that?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is confidential.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was there any order of Government asking the officer to peruse the article?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No order of Government is necessary.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether there is anything on record to show that anybody, on behalf of Government, perused this article before it was sent to the magazine?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; there *is*,

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Am I to take it that the identity of the officer cannot be disclosed either by name or by his office?

PRESIDENT: You have to be satisfied with the answer given.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In regard to the answer to part (*c*), was the writer in charge of the Central Vernacular Records at the time this article was published?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is stated in the answer that he was an Ag. Assistant Secretary to Government at the time he wrote it?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is also stated in the answer that he was for some time in charge of the Central Vernacular Records. My question is whether he was in charge of the Records at the time he wrote this article.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He was in charge of the Central Vernacular Records prior to that and also later. At the time he submitted the article he was not.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With reference to part (*d*), my question is whether Government permission is required to publish documents of the kind published in the article. And the answer is that Government permission is required. May I know when he was granted this permission? Was it before he sent it to the secretary of that society?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not able to say that now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did he get Government sanction to prepare the article?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No sanction is necessary to prepare articles. Sanction is necessary only for making use of the records.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did he get sanction for that?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know when that sanction was given?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not able to say that now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The answer to parts (*f*) and (*g*), is that the Government is the authority to give sanction. May I know, here at least, whether there was any officer who satisfied himself as to the unobjectionable nature of the article?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government were themselves satisfied of that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): When we say 'Government' we mean some person. There must be some person who was satisfied. I want to know the name of the officer.

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PRESIDENT : It is the third time you are asking that, Mr. Thanu Pillai. Please sit down. The Secretary will please proceed with the next question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*). Am I not allowed to put any more supplementary question on this question?

PRESIDENT : No, not on this point.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to a point of order. The time allotted for questions and answers has expired.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The rule is that the first hour shall be devoted to questions. There is no objection to continue even after that hour if the other items of business in the day's agenda would not suffer. To-day, the remaining business is in connection with Government Bills. I have no objection to have the answering of questions being continued.

PRESIDENT : I allow it to continue.

Grant of copies of records from the Central Vernacular Records Office.

184. **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether copies of records in the Central Vernacular Records Office are given as a matter of right to applicants ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, the rules under which copies are granted ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The grant of copies of records in the Central Vernacular Records is regulated by the principles enunciated in the rules published at pages 268, 527 and 613 of Part I of the Second Supplement to the Land Revenue Manual, Vol. II.

Abolition of the Sub-Registry Office at Kotamangalam.

185. **MR. K. P. ABRAHAM** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : (1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that they propose to abolish the Sub-Registrar's Office now existing at Kotamangalam ?

(2) will they be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

(*a*) the number of documents registered in that office—

(i) in each of the months in 1106 and their total ; and

(ii) in 1107 during Chingam, Kanni and Tulam, respectively ; and

(*b*) the minimum number of documents required to be registered in a year in a Sub-Registrar's Office ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (1) The matter is under consideration.

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